SOIL AND DISPOSAL FACILITY

FERNALD FACT SHEET ~ SOIL AND DISPOSAL FACILITY PROJECT

From 1952 to 1989, the Fernald site produced 500 million pounds of pure uranium metal products for the nation's Cold War defense program. When the site ceased operations in 1989 because of declines in demand for Fernald's products and increasing environmental concerns, 31 million net pounds of nuclear product, 2.5 billion pounds of waste and 2.5 million cubic yards of contaminated soil and debris remained on site. Since then, Fernald workers have been dedicated to the environmental remediation of the 1,050-acre site.

In 1986, Fernald began a 10-year environmental site investigation to determine contamination levels and develop cleanup plans. The investigation resulted in Records of Decision, or final cleanup plans, for five operable units. Two of the operable units involve remediation of contaminated soil, foundations and below-grade structures and piping. Operable Unit 2 includes a solid waste landfill, lime sludge ponds, the south field area, and active and inactive flyash piles. Operable Unit 5 incorporates impacted portions of the underlying Great Miami Aquifer and the contaminated soil not included in other site cleanup plans.

In 1995, the Department of Energy (DOE), Fluor Fernald, regulators and stakeholders agreed on a cleanup plan for Operable Unit 2. The plan involves characterizing the soil to determine contamination levels, excavating the contaminated portions, and waste disposal according to DOE's sitewide disposal strategy. This strategy, finalized in late 1995, entails transporting smaller volumes of more highly-radioactive waste to an off-site disposal facility while containing larger volumes of low-level contaminated material in an engineered On-Site Disposal Facility (OSDF).

PHOTO: In 1997, Fernald initiated the construction of the On-Site Disposal Facility (OSDF), which is designed to hold 2.5 million cubic yards of impacted material (7792-116).